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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/829,915	04/11/2001	Masami Tsukamoto	684.3179	8192

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

BROWN, KHALED

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/829,915

Applicant(s)

MASAMI TSUKAMOTO

Examiner

Khaled Brown

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujie et al (US 5696623).

Re clm 1,9,10,21,23,31,32: Fujie et al discloses an optical structure (Fig 1), comprising: an optical element (L1); and gas supplying means (H1) for supplying a gas to a limited portion of a surface of the optical element, wherein said gas supplying means blows the gas directly against the surface of the optical element.

Re clm 2,19,24,41: ultraviolet light (20)

Re clm 3,20,25,42: the light has one of wavelengths of 365 nm, 245 nm, 193 nm and 157 nm (Inherent in the meaning of ultraviolet light).

Re clm 4, 17,18,26, 39,40,43: a plurality of optical elements (L1, L2, L3) and a container (1) isolated from a surrounding ambience (Outside 2), wherein said plurality of optical elements are disposed at least at a light entrance surface (L1) and a light exit surface (L10) of said container, and wherein said gas supplying means (H1) is provided at the light entrance surface (L1) and/or the light exit surface of said container.

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Re clm 5,27: a plurality (H1, H2) of gas supplying means, each being said gas supplying means, which are disposed revolutionally symmetrically with respect to an optical axis of the optical element.

Re clm 6,28: a cover (21)

Re clm 7,29: means for removing an impurity (202) contained in the gas

Re clm 8,30: a gas supplying equipment (202) having impurity removing means

Re clm 11, 16,33,35,38: means for adjusting a gas supplying and exhausting flow rate (103) and a pressure of the gas to be supplied by said gas supplying means

Re clm 12,34: means for adjusting a temperature (108) of the gas

Re clm 13,14: exhaust (P out)

Re clm 15,37: gas supplying means is disposed at one side (P in) of the optical element and wherein said gas exhausting means is disposed at the other side (P out) of the optical element (Fig 2c).

Re clm 36: a plurality of gas exhausting means (Pd, Pc)

Re clms 22, 44: The above disclosed device is capable of performing the claimed method steps.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nishi et al 5883704, Tokuda et al 5995263, Nishi 5892572 and Hamatani 5425045.

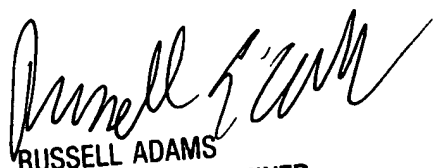
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khaled Brown whose telephone number is 703-306-5738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russell E. Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

KB
May 3, 2002


RUSSELL ADAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800